

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/7/14
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P.O. Box 1520
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DOB: 10/09/07 Race: W Gender: M

Type of Report: ☒ Fatality ☐ Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 05/31/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 06/01/12

Summary of Allegations: On 06/01/12, SCDSS received a report that the mother was neglecting her children, ages 9 and 4. The children were often unsupervised while the mother went out. The children were often around the neighborhood playing in the street. The boy was riding his bike and begging for food. Recently the 4-year-old had Special K for breakfast at 3:00 in the afternoon. The children were dirty and had head lice. The reporter did not know whether the children were being physically abused. The family recently moved to a new address. The reporter stated an anonymous call revealed the children were involved in the "Meth Lab" explosion last night.

Date Investigation Initiated: 06/01/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect by the mother.

Date of Case Decision: 6/27/12

Basis for Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect of the minor child due to a child being in a meth lab which resulted in his death.

The Department's Response After the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

A Safety Plan was implemented and the deceased child's sibling was placed with the maternal grandmother. The grandmother obtained legal custody of the sibling through a private action.

SCDSS offered parenting education and counseling to the mother.

The case closed on 9/25/12.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Death or Serious Condition.

Date Investigation Initiated: 9/24/09

Summary of Allegations: On 9/24/09, SCDSS received a report that alleged a 2-year-old child tested positive for cocaine and benzodiazepines. The child had been staying with the mother's relative since last Tuesday. The mother picked the child up last night at 10:45 p.m. At approximately 11:00 p.m., the child began to behave in a peculiar manner. The child was taken to the hospital. The child was still screaming, crying, and agitated. Hospital officials were unable to determine the cause. The child was subsequently transported to another hospital where a Urinary Drug Screen was completed. The child was admitted, but was still in the ER area of the hospital because a bed was not available. The child was experiencing signs of withdrawal from drugs.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect of the children by the mother. The case was also indicated for neglect and physical abuse of the child by an unknown perpetrator.

Basis for Case Decision: The child consumed drugs while in the home of a relative. The mother failed to provide appropriate adult supervision for her children in her absence.

The children were placed with relatives through a Safety Plan.

SCDSS provided referrals for parenting education, and SCDSS monitoring and case management through a Family Preservation Services case.

The mother successfully completed the goals of the treatment plan. The children were returned to the mother. The case subsequently closed on 3/30/10.